



**PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION
VISTA DEL CAMINO PARK AND COMMUNITY CENTER
7700 E. ROOSEVELT STREET, SCOTTSDALE AZ 85257
ACTIVITY ROOM 1
WEDNESDAY, MARCH 1, 2006**

MEETING MINUTES

PRESENT: Donn Loper, Chairman
John Faramelli
Robert Frost
Ron King
Ronald Petersen

ABSENT: Shelley Anderson, Vice-Chair
Dean Cerimeli

STAFF: William Murphy, Parks and Grounds Management Director
Judy Weiss, Parks and Recreation Director
Christy Hill, Recreation Coordinator
Joseph Romero, Recreation Leader II
Don Davis, Parks and Grounds Management Manager
Rose Williams, Parks & Grounds Management Manager
Brett Jackson, Downtown Maintenance Coordinator
Sandy Hlebaen, Parks and Grounds Landscape Contracts Coordinator
Ryan Stee, Parks and Grounds Technician
Leslie Clark, Parks and Recreation Manager

1. CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Loper called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m.

2. MOMENT OF SILENCE

At the request of Chairman Loper, the meeting observed a moment of silence.

3. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

Regular Meeting of February 15, 2006.

Commissioner Frost stated that page 5, paragraph 4, should read, "Community Park will occur on March 9th at Grayhawk Thunderbird Branch of the Boys & Girls Club of Greater Scottsdale." That being noted,

COMMISSIONER FROST MOVED TO APPROVE THE MEETING MINUTES AS AMENDED. COMMISSIONER KING SECONDED THE MOTION, WHICH CARRIED WITH A UNANIMOUS VOTE OF FIVE (5) TO ZERO (0).

**4. VISTA DEL CAMINO UPDATE AND DISCUSSION OF YAQUI MURALS
(Information item)**

Christy Hill, Recreation Coordinator of Vista del Camino Park, gave a brief presentation concerning programs, upcoming events, and the impending remodeling project. She has returned to Vista after 13 years, in which she served in a coordinator capacity.

Vista del Camino provides recreation programs, and also partners with social services to meet the needs of the community. They take pride in supporting the cultures that are immediate to the community, such as the Yaqui Indians. Vista del Camino is dedicated to the culture, artwork, and history of the Yaqui people, as that is one of the things that makes Scottsdale special.

The after-school program, which is based out of Yavapai Elementary, currently has 103 children registered from Grades 1 through 6. Many activities are offered including games, arts and crafts, sports, and creative instruction. The Seven Developmental Needs are modeled and a youth development team is maintained in the Parks and Recreation Division. Some of the needs supported include Physical Activity, Creative Expression, and Positive Social Interaction with peers. There is also a teen program based at Vista del Camino with 50 teens registered and daily participation of 20 to 25 teens.

The Park is comprised of 58 acres. The amenities offered include an 18-hole disc golf course, two playgrounds, picnic areas, a softball field, a basketball court, lakes for fishing, a multi-use path, and community center, which will be enhanced with the remodel.

In addition to working with Human Services, staff also works closely with the Park's management team. Mike Bishop, who is the lead ground management person, is instrumental as the eyes and ears of the Park.

The proposed Vista remodel budget is \$3.2 million at this point. Vista del Camino will expand by 2,500 square feet. The existing structure will be used and additions will occur in the west wing. Construction is anticipated to begin in July. The additional amenities will include a central service desk, meeting rooms, an upgraded kitchen, and indoor hallways that will create a gallery for displayed artwork.

Chairman Loper opened the floor to questions. In response to a question by Commissioner Frost regarding the teens' program, Ms. Hill explained that "drop-ins" are not allowed. The teens must fill out the registration so that parents can be reached if any problems or safety issues occur.

In response to inquiry by Commissioner Frost, Ms. Weiss confirmed that due to budget constraints, the Cultural Council was not involved as part of the remodel project.

In response to Commissioner Faramelli's question, Ms. Hill verified that 2,500 square feet will be the total increase to the center. She also clarified that the remodel would probably triple the rooms they currently have and the rooms will be designed to specifically meet needs (such as computer rooms, study rooms, and meeting rooms for Social Services).

Commissioner Faramelli also asked whether the Park has a volunteer program. Ms. Hill explained that they work with the Youth Corps program, school-mandated volunteer work like the National Honor Society, and community-based volunteer work. A log of the volunteer hours is kept.

Discussion ensued regarding how these activities will occur during remodeling construction. Ms. Hill explained that they are still strategizing and trying to figure out ways of maintaining the services they provide.

Responding to a question by Chairman Loper, Ms. Hill confirmed that the \$452,000 budget breakdown is inclusive of the personnel headcount for Parks and Recreation. She offered to provide Chairman Loper with a copy of the entire breakdown.

Chairman Loper also asked who the guest speakers at the center have been in the past. Ms. Hill reported that NAU has been involved, along with artists brought in by the Scottsdale Cultural Council, such as Leslie Haddad and Linda Jane Austin. Once Skysong is developed, the audience will have greater proximity to the speakers.

Joseph Romero, Recreation Leader II and Yaqui community member, presented a short history of the Yaqui people as he led an overview of the Yaqui Mural artwork that was commissioned in 1999 for Vista del Camino and the surrounding community. As he showed the murals, he spoke about how the images reflect cultural aspects of the Yaqui people, such as the creation story, the deer dancer, Mother Earth, and migration of the people.

Mr. Loper welcomed new staff member, Deanna Zuppan. Ms. Zuppan is the Senior Recreation Coordinator for Adapted Recreation.

5. DOWNTOWN AND ORIGINAL SCOTTSDALE REVITALIZATION (Information item)

Don Davis, Parks and Grounds Management Manager, and Sandy Hlebaen, Parks and Grounds Landscape Contracts Coordinator presented an update on the program, projects and enhancements in the Downtown and Original Scottsdale Revitalization areas that have been completed over the past year, including staff, and coverage of areas. Brett Jackson, who was present, is the downtown coordinator.

Many issues staff work with include partnering with the Transportation Department and coordinating with the Solid Waste Division and Code Enforcement to eliminate graffiti, shopping carts, and unauthorized signs. The team also responds to emergency calls such as street flooding, tree branch removal, and dumping of trash in the streets. As enhancements occur on the streets, barricade plans are approved and set up in advance.

As part of landscaping maintenance, about 40 flower baskets have been added to the downtown area with positive results from the community. Minor tree pruning is an ongoing activity. Major pruning is done once a year. Over 2600 plants have been planted in various areas. Eldorado Park's turf along Miller Road has been removed and changed to xeriscape, as has Fire Station 1 on Thomas and Miller Road. About 2,000 tons of granite was just put down.

Parks and Grounds has the contract for power washing of Downtown, which includes the Art Fest and the New Year's Eve Block Party, as well as the sidewalks, benches, and trash receptacles.

City Staff will also be going out to canvass the neighborhoods to discuss revitalization. Two canvasses have taken place; the next event is planned for March 11th. The community feels it has not received enough information about revitalization efforts, so results from the canvassing have been good. The community is most excited about the new Lowe's.

Commissioner King asked about a master plan for the xeriscape work. Current xeriscape efforts are determined by evaluating where turf is unnecessary.

Commissioner Frost commended Bill Murphy for the hanging flower baskets, and Commissioner Faramelli complimented the team on the landscaping around the mall.

A discussion was held concerning private property maintenance and coordinating maintenance with the owners.

6. DIRECTOR'S REPORT OF CURRENT EVENTS (A.R.S. § 38-431.02(K))
(Information item)

Judy Weiss, Parks and Recreation Director, and William Murphy, Parks and Grounds Management Director, updated the Commission on the status of events and activities of the Parks and Recreation, and Parks and Grounds Management Divisions as follows:

The Commission tour will be held on March 15. Several key staff members will join the Commission. This event will provide an opportunity for the employees to see the kinds of facilities that are managed and the programs that take place.

There are two items on the March 7th City Council agenda concerning Parks and Recreation. The first item is the intergovernmental three-way agreement between the town of Paradise Valley and the Scottsdale School District regarding the Kiva School Project and scheduling the youth sports usage of the field upon completion of renovations by Paradise Valley. The school district owns the property.

The second agenda item is the Chaparral Park Extension contract modification to the Barton Mallow contract, who is the contractor on the Scottsdale Stadium.

A large crowd is expected on March 9th at the Grayhawk Boys & Girls Thunderbird Branch; Commissioners Frost and Anderson plan to attend.

An update was given on the Mescal neighborhood meeting, wherein a small group of equestrian users and neighbors met to discuss possible rules for the grass basin and whether it can be used for equestrian riding. The rules were agreed to at last night's meeting, and signs will be posted. The program is considered a pilot and will be reevaluated in six months.

In response to inquiry by Chairman Loper regarding the rules for riding in the basin, Ms. Weiss explained that the document is a one-page list of acceptable and unacceptable activities. For example, walking and trotting are permitted. Rodeo riding, galloping, excessive speed, or playing polo are not permitted. Ms. Weiss will provide Chairman Loper with a copy of the rules.

The next neighborhood canvassing is set for March 11th. A neighborhood picnic is scheduled as part of the event and will be held at Ramada number 1.

The Pinnacle Peak Volunteers will be recognized at a dinner on April 19th at 6:30 p.m. A meeting is also scheduled for April 19th at 5 p.m. La Mirada. All members of the Commission are encouraged to attend.

Ms. Weiss presented recent photographs of the CAP Basin and gave an overview of the progress, noting that the project is on schedule, and staff will be added as soon as the building is complete. It is anticipated that the Basin should be ready to accept reservations on April 1 for tournament play planned for September. The playground railing and the basketball courts are progressing. The Cliff Garten public artwork will allow visitors to view the surrounding area from the platform.

Mr. Murphy thanked Chairman Loper and Commissioner Peterson for attending Spring training open house on the 19th. Approximately 450 residents attended, and the feedback was good. The Giants have not moved locations since the facility opened. Over 5,000 people attended the Buddy Schultz Arizona Charities baseball game on the 19th, and the money generated supplies some of the little leagues and summer youth baseball programs. Commissioner Peterson commented that Mr. Murphy and his team did a bang up job.

Other upcoming events and activities include the Arts Festival the week of March 10 through the 12th at the Civic Center.

There has been a very good turnout for the Native Trails Day on Tuesdays and Thursdays at the Civic Center.

Opening day for the Giants is March 3rd, and the World Baseball Classic is scheduled for the week of March 6th. Over 9,000 tickets have been sold for the Sunday game. The stadium is currently at capacity. With the new construction, capacity will be close to 11,500. The youth fields will be prepared during Spring break. Councilman McCullough recently toured the school facility; receiving an update and a first-hand look at the progress.

Special attention was also called to the invitations to the Mayor's new breakfast series. Information is contained in Commissioners' packets.

7. OPEN CALL TO THE PUBLIC (A.R.S. § 38-431.02)

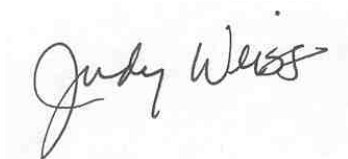
No members of the public wished to address the Commission.

8. ADJOURNMENT

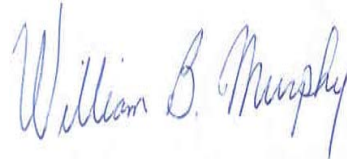
With no further business to discuss, being duly moved and seconded, the meeting adjourned at 6:07 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
A/V Tronics, Inc.

Meets established criteria.



Judy Weiss, Director
Parks and Recreation



William B. Murphy, Director
Parks and Grounds Management